

he left Scotland for Utah to fulfill a request of Brigham Young for two Scotch shepherds and their dogs; but Brigham's sheep died before John Murdock, his wife, and two children arrived in Utah. After living in Salt Lake City eight years, he moved to Heber in 1860. In 1861 he organized the settlers' sheep into a cooperative sheep herd and took charge of them for many years. He introduced the use of sheep dip in Utah and here built the first dipping vat for treating sheep for scab.<sup>4</sup>

Commercial wool growing started in 1898 when Isaac and Milton Jacob, together with Joseph Jacob, their father, leased the cooperative sheep herd and ran it for four years. At the end of this period they bought out the interests of all who would sell and started their own herd of 3,000 sheep and thus became prominent leaders

<sup>4</sup>*Wasatch Wave*, December 21, 1906, p. 9.



Beef cattle industry

in the sheep industry.<sup>5</sup> Other sheepmen were Tom Clotworthy, J. S. Murdock, William and Hugh Coleman, J. W. Clyde, Smith Bros., J. B. Wilson & Sons, and J. S. McDonald & Sons.

Wasatch County for many years has been the center of livestock raising and dairy farming. Dairy farmers today ship milk to Salt Lake City, and sheep cattlemen supply high grade products to many markets.

#### MINING

It was the mining interest sparked by Colonel Patrick Edward Conner and his California volunteers that led to the development of the rich mines in northern Wasatch County. Conner and his men came to Utah in

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 12.



Dairy cattle industry



1862 to protect the overland mail route.<sup>8</sup> Many of Conner's men were prospectors who had been drawn to California in the search for mineral wealth and continued



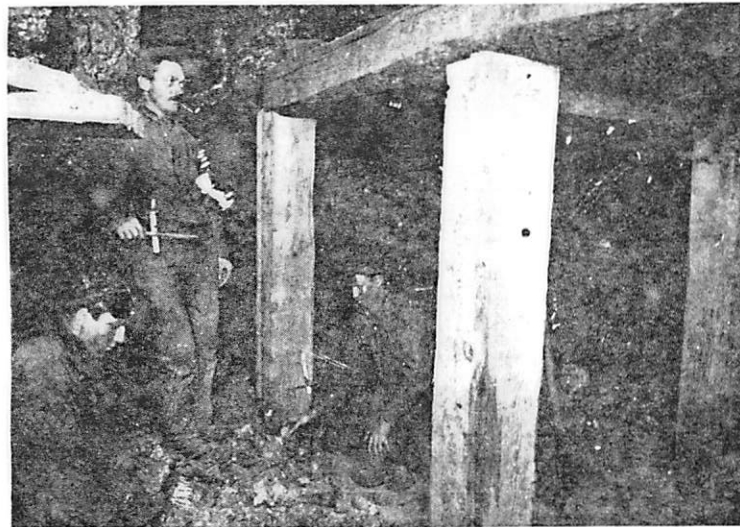
Mining: William W. Alder, kneeling; center.

that activity while in Utah, with the active support of their commanding officer. Just how active is indicated in this excerpt from one of Conner's reports to his superior officer.

Having reason to believe that the territory is full of mineral wealth, I have instructed commanders of posts and detachments to permit their men to prospect the country in the vicinity of their respective posts and to furnish every proper facility for the discovery and opening of mines of silver, gold, and other minerals. . . . Already within a distance of from twenty-five to fifty miles of this city (Salt Lake) in the east and west mountains,

<sup>8</sup>Neff, *History of Utah*, pp. 631-2.

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mines have been discovered yielding rich indications of silver and largely charged with lead and copper ores.<sup>9</sup>

About 1870 Connor's men discovered a rich outcropping of silver ore carrying some lead, zinc, and copper in McHenry's Canyon. It was this discovery which gave impetus to the development of the Park City district, thereby opening up some of the richest mines in the West.<sup>10</sup> Much money and effort were spent on the McHenry-Hawkeye mine, but there were insurmountable problems which made general development of the area from another direction necessary.<sup>11</sup>

The rich ore of the district attracted many mining interests. Senator George Hearst of San Francisco became interested in the discovery, but after looking over the property with the attendant obstacles to its development he decided against investing in it. While on his homeward journey in June of 1872, as he was riding down Ontario Canyon, he came across two men working about halfway from the summit. The two, probably Rector Steen and his partner, were working about seventy-five feet high on the side of the canyon on a two foot outcrop of lead, silver, and copper.<sup>12</sup> He offered them \$30,000 for their discovery and they accepted. This was the beginning of the Ontario Mine.

It was found necessary, while working the Ontario mine, to drain it of large amounts of water which were encountered at depth in each of three shafts. This was accomplished in part by driving a drainage tunnel from Keetley, some five miles east. It was this drainage tun-

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 635. Connor was also interested in the affects of a mining industry on the control of Utah by the Mormons.

<sup>10</sup>Otto K. Bohl, "Park Utah Mine at Keetley, Utah," (Unpublished Master's thesis, University of Utah, 1934), p. 3.

<sup>11</sup>P. H. Hunt, "History of the Park Utah Mine," *Heber Pioneer Days Pamphlet*, (Heber, 1924), p. 24.

<sup>12</sup>Bohl, *op. cit.*, p. 4.



nel which later gave access to the Park Utah Mine—the largest mine in Wasatch County.<sup>13</sup>

The Park Utah mine was to come into being in 1916 when George W. Lambourne and George D. Blood would combine forces to develop holdings east of the Ontario mine. Permission was to be secured to work through the Ontario drain tunnel, and the venture would develop so successfully that by 1922 the Park Utah mine would be producing 6,000 tons of lead, silver, and zinc ore per month, worth fifty dollars a ton.<sup>14</sup>

Later development would see the consolidation of the Park Utah, Daly Judge, and Ontario mining companies into the Park Utah Consolidated Mines Company in 1925.<sup>15</sup> These mines would, in the course of time, greatly enrich Wasatch County and its inhabitants, who would work in the mines and furnish it with supplies.

The mining fever accompanying the rich strikes in the Park City area was also felt on the other side of the mountain range, especially in the Snake Creek area of the Provo Valley. Here many claims were staked out by the Mormon pioneer settlers who originally came to the valley for farming and stock raising. These settlers formed the Snake Creek mining district in May of 1870.<sup>16</sup>

To the Snake Creek district came a motley group of mining enthusiasts, and the nearby town of Midway experienced a mining boom at the turn of the century. Many claims were staked out up and down Snake Creek Canyon, and men discussed the relative merits of such holdings as the Steamboat property, Lions, Wide West,

<sup>13</sup>Emett K. Olson, "Mining Methods of Park Utah Consolidated Mines Company" (Unpublished Master's thesis, University of Utah, 1950), p. 4.

<sup>14</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>15</sup>Olsen, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

<sup>16</sup>By Laws of the Snake Creek Mining District, (Heber 1930), p. 1.

Heber City, Big Four, Balsam Grove, Bogan Property, Lone Pine, Southern Tier, St. Louis Vassar, Wolverine, Success, the Tattersal Property, and Boulder Basin.<sup>17</sup>

Some rich ore was found, and in the case of the Southern Tier, \$80,000 worth was reportedly shipped to Park City.<sup>18</sup> In general, however, the ore deposits proved pockety and spotty; and this, coupled with the water problem so prevalent in the region round about, brought a disappointing end to the hopes of those who staked out the area.

Despite the disappointment of the many mining interests, the boom was of real significance to Midway. It meant a period of prosperity comparable to that prompted earlier by the stage coach contract and the building of the railroad through Utah. Many a family income was augmented by the work in the mines. It was also a period of romance and adventure. The usual topics of daily discussion gave way to mining speculations, the fortunes to be made and spent, the diggings at Bonanza Flat, and the new arrivals at the Aggie O'Neil Hotel. Some of the wealthy speculators from the East even brought their libraries with them and bestowed them on a culture hungry people when they left.<sup>19</sup>

Mining activity benefited Wasatch County in many ways. It furnished much needed work, both in the mines and related activities such as lumbering and farming, and it furnished considerable revenue for many county projects and responsibilities.

#### LUMBERING

When William Gardner made his report to Brigham Young of the exploration of the Provo and Weber river valleys he told of the plentiful supply of timber there.

<sup>17</sup>*Wasatch Wave*, December 21, 1906.

<sup>18</sup>Emily Coleman, interview, 1952.

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## MINING

Mining also played an important role in Heber's business picture. While the mining operations of the county have not been physically located in Heber, some 60 per cent of the employees of Park Utah Mine at Keetley came from Heber and Midway. During the height of its operation, the mine was responsible for about \$20,000 a month in payroll to residents of the two communities. The mining story is told in more detail in Chapter 16 and 32. —

*HEBER 177*

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Park City, one of the two main silver producing camps, is in Summit County, thirty miles east of Salt Lake City, with which it is connected by a branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, and by the Union Pacific connection of the Oregon Short Line. Park City is the home of the Ontario, the Silver King, the Daly-West, and other noted mines. The Ontario



MINERS AT WORK.